

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O RPERITO
APPROVED BY S/S-O RPERITO
-----291100Z 022247 /22
R 291014Z MAR 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO WHITEHOUSE

S E C R E T STATE 069150

NODIS

FOL REPEAT TAIPEI 01720 ACTION SECSTATE DATED 29 MAR 77

QUOTE: S E C R E T TAIPEI 1720

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, TW
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR REPRESENTATION TO THE ROC

REF: STATE 067316

1. I CALLED ON PREMIER CHIANG MARCH 28 TO SET FORTH OUR POSITION ON ROC NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL. DCM ACCOMPANIED ME. MIN W/O PORT. CHOU SHU-K'AI AND NAMES SOONG (PM'S AIDE AND INTERPRETER) SAT IN ON CHINESE SIDE.

2. IN MAKING ORAL PRESENTATION I FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS AS PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT AND LEFT A WRITTEN COPY OF THEM WITH SOONG. PREMIER HEARD ME OUT WITHOUT INTERRUPTION EXCEPT TO REQUEST
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INTERPRETATION INTO CHINESE AT SEVERAL POINTS WHERE HE WISHED TO CHECK HIS UNDERSTANDING OR COMPREHENSION.

3. I ALSO HANDED OVER TO PREMIER, AT HIS REQUEST, THE FORMAL THIRD-PERSON NOTE WHICH WAS DRAFTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REFTEL AND WHICH WAS ADDRESSED TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. (FYI: THE NOTE IS CLASSIFIED "SECRET"; A

COPY WILL BE SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT BY POUCH.) WITH REGARD TO OUR REQUEST FOR A WRITTEN REPLY TO OUR PROPOSALS, I TOLD PREMIER THAT WE HAD SOME PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS WHICH HIS PEOPLE MIGHT FIND HELPFUL AND THAT DCM POPPLE WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO CONSULT WITH WHOMEVER HE (THE PREMIER) MIGHT WISH TO SUGGEST. PREMIER AGREED THAT THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL AND THAT, WITH THIS PURPOSE IN MIND, POPPLE "COULD CONTINUE DISCUSSION HE HAD BEEN HAVING WITH MOFA" ON NUCLEAR MATTERS. (FYI: THIS WAS AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO THE DCM'S APPROACHES TO VICE MIN CHIEN ON THE COMPRIMO AFFAIR.) IN IMPRESSING UPON THE PREMIER THE IMPORTANCE OF AN EARLY REPLY TO OUR PROPOSALS, I EMPHASIZED THE REPORTED IAEA CONCERNS AND THE OBVIOUS ADVANTAGE TO BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS IF EFFECTIVE ACTION IS TAKEN PROMPTLY BY THE GROC TO ALLEVIATE SUCH CONCERNS. PREMIER INDICATED AGREEMENT.

4. IN RESPONDING TO MY PRESENTATION, PREMIER REITERATED HIS SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY AND REFERRED TO HIS (THE PREMIER'S) PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT THE ROC WOULD NOT MANUFACTURE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THIS WAS ESTABLISHED ROC POLICY AND WOULD REMAIN SO, THE PERMIER DECLARED. HE ALSO STATED THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTED THE CONCERNED GROC AGENCIES, THE AEC AND INER, THAT ALL RESEARCH SHOULD BE CONDUCTED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES ONLY AND THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT HIS ORDERS WERE BEING FULLY COMPLIED WITH. THE PREMIER SAID THAT THE USG COULD BE ASSURED THAT HE WAS A MAN WHO HAD NEVER BROKEN A PROMISE AND NEVER WILL-PARTICULARLY ON THIS NUCLEAR ISSUE.

REFERRING TO THE VISIT OF THE U.S. NUCLEAR TEAM LAST JANUARY, HE SAID HE WISHED WE HAD TAKEN UP HIS OFFER TO SEND US NUCLEAR
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SCIENTISTS TO THE ROC TO WORK PERMANENTLY ALONGSIDE HIS SCIENTISTS SO THAT WE COULD BE FULLY INVOLVED IN AND FULLY AWARE OF EVERYTHING THEY WERE DOING. IF MONEY WAS A PROBLEM THE GROC WOULD PAY THE EXPENSES OF SUCH US PERSONNEL; AND THE OFFER WAS STILL OPEN. HE ALSO WELCOMED THE IAEA IN ITS ROLE.

5. THE PREMIER CHARACTERIZED HIS FOREGOING COMMENTS AS A "PRELIMINARY" RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSALS, BUT IN VIEW OF THE COMPLICATED TECHNICAL ISSUES INVOLVED WISHED TO ALLOW HIS EXPERTS TIME TO STUDY THEM CAREFULLY BEFORE GETTING BACK OT US WITH A WRITTEN REPLY TO OUR NOTE. WITH REFERENCE TO OUR SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS (PRESUMABLY POINTS 5 AND 6 OF TALKING POINTS WHICH I HAD CAREFULLY EMPHASIZED), HE SAID THAT US CAN BE ASSURED ROC WOULD NOT DO ANYTHING INCONSISTENT WITH ITS COMMITMENTS, BUT SOME DIFFERENCES MAY HAVE ARISEN OUT OF DIFFERENT UNDERSTANDINGS ON THESE TECHNICALLY COMPLEX QUESTIONS.

6. I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE PREMIER'S REASSURANCES ON HIS NUCLEAR INTENTIONS AND TOLD HIM I WOULD CONVEY HIS REMARKS

TO WASHINGTON. I DID POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS PREMIER HAD ALSO STATED THAT THE ROC HAD THE CAPABILITY TO PRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND WASHINGTON WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE DANGERS OF PROLIFERATION WHICH THEY FELT THIS IMPLIED. NEVERTHELESS, IN THE SPIRIT OF THE COMMENTS HE HAD JUST MADE, I SAID I FELT WE COULD WORK OUT A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION. I ADDED THAT GROG'S WRITTEN REPLY TO OUR NOTE SHOULD PROVIDE THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH WE CAN MOVE AHEAD WITH THE TECHNICAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE EXPERT LEVEL.

7. COMMENT: THE PREMIER RECEIVED MY PRESENTATION IN GOOD STYLE AND WITH NO DETECTABLE DISCOMFORT. HE REMAINED IN GOOD HUMOR THROUGHOUT THE HALF-HOUR CONVERSATION. WITHIN A HALF HOUR AFTER I HAD LEFT THE PREMIER'S OFFICE, I RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL AT HOME FROM CHOU SHU-K'AI TO WARN AGAINST THE DANGER OF PRESS LEAKS. CHOU SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO KEEP THE MATTER CONFIDENTIAL AND THAT ANY PUBLICITY WOULD CAUSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH HE DID NOT
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OTHERWISE FORESEE. I TOLD CHOU I UNDERSTOOD THEIR CONCERN AND WOULD SO INFORM WASHINGTON.

8. DCM POPPLE WILL SEEK EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH MOFA VICE MIN CHIEN FOR CONSULTATION REGARDING GROG REPLY TO OUR FORMAL NOTE. WE WILL SEEK TO SHAPE GROG REPLY TO CONFORM AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE TO LANGUAGE PROVIDED REFTEL. UNGER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, CAT-B, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE069150
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O RPERITO
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: N770002-0253
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770310/aaaaaiss.tel
Line Count: 146
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 279807ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 77 STATE 67316
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2935928
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NUCLEAR REPRESENTATION TO THE ROC
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, TW, US
To: WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/279807ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009